

## POS

POSSESSIVE. *adj.* [*possessivus*, Lat.] Having possession.

POSSESSORY. *adj.* [*possessivus*, Fr. from *posse*, Lat.] Having possession. This he detains from the ivy much against his will; for he should be the true possessor lord thereof. *Howel.*

POSSESSOR. *n. f.* [*possessor*, Lat. *possessor*, Fr.] Owner; master; proprietor.

Thou profoundest hell

Receive thy new possessor. *Milton.*

A considerable difference lies between the honour of men for natural and acquired excellencies and divine graces, that those having more of human nature in them, the honour doth more directly redound to the possessor of them. *Stillington.*

'Twas the interest of those, who thirsted after the possessions of the clergy, to represent the possessors in as vile colours as they could. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

POSSESS. *n. f.* [*posca*, Lat.] Milk curdled with wine or any acid.

We'll have a posset at the latter end of a sea-coal fire. *Shak.*

In came the bridemaids with the posset, *Suckling.*

The bridegroom eat in posset. *Shak.*

I allowed him medicated broths, posset ale and pearl julep. *Wise's Surgery.*

A sparing diet did her health assure;

Or sick, a pepper posset was her cure. *Dryden.*

The cure of the stone consists in vomiting with posset drink, in which althea roots are boiled. *Floyer on the Humours.*

Increase the milk when it is diminished by the too great use of flesh meats, by gruels and posset drink. *Arbutnot.*

To POSSET. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To turn; to curdle: as milk with acids. Not used.

Swift as quicksilver it courses through

The natural gates and allies of the body;

And, with a sudden vigour, it doth posset

And curd, like eager droppings into milk,

The thin and wholesome blood. *Shaksp. Hamlet.*

POSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*possibilitas*, Fr.] The power of being in any manner; the state of being possible.

There is no let, but that as often as those books are read, and need to require, the file of their differences may expressly be mentioned to bar even all possibility of error. *Hooker.*

Brother, speak with possibilities.

And do not break into these woeful extremes. *Shaksp.*

Consider him antecedently to his creation, while he yet lay in the barren womb of nothing, and only in the number of possibilities; and consequently could have nothing to recommend him to Christ's affection. *South's Sermons.*

A bare possibility, that a thing may be or not be, is no just cause of doubting whether a thing be or not. *Tillotson.*

According to the multifariousness of this imitability, to are the possibilities of being. *Norris.*

Example not only teaches us our duty, but convinces us of the possibility of our imitation. *Rogers's Sermons.*

POSSIBLE. *adj.* [*possibilis*, Fr. *possibilis*, Lat.] Having the power to be or to be done; not contrary to the nature of things.

Admit all these impossibilities and great absurdities to be possible and convenient. *Whitgift.*

With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. *Mat. xix. 26.*

All things are possible to him that believeth. *Mar. ix. 23.*

Firm we submit, but possible to ferve. *Milton.*

It will scarce seem possible, that God should engrave principles in men's minds in words of uncertain signification. *Locke.*

Set a pleasure tempting, and the hand of the Almighty visibly prepared to take vengeance, and tell whether it be possible for people wantonly to offend against the law. *Locke.*

POSSIBLY. *adv.* [from *possible*.]

1. By any power really existing.

Within the compass of which laws, we do not only comprehend whatsoever may be easily known to belong to the duty of all men, but even whatsoever may possibly be known to be of that quality. *Hooker, b. i. f. 8.*

Can we possibly his love desert? *Milton.*

2. Perhaps; without absurdity.

Possibly he might be found in the hands of the earl of Essex, but he would be dead first. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Arbitrary power tends to make a man a bad sovereign, who might possibly have been a good one, had he been invested with an authority circumscribed by laws. *Addison.*

POST. *n. f.* [*postus*, Fr. *postus*, Lat.] A post; a messenger.

1. A hasty messenger; a courier who comes and goes at stated times; commonly a letter carrier.

In certain places there be always fresh posts, to carry that farther which is brought unto them by the other. *Abbot.*

Three I'll rake up, the post unanctified

Of murtherous lechers. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,

Receiving them by such a worthless post. *Shaksp.*

A cripple in the way out-travels a footman, or a post out of the way. *Benj. Johnson's Discov.*

I send you the fair copy of the poem on Dulnet, which I should not care to hazard by the common post. *Pope.*

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2. Quick course or manner of travelling. This is the sense in which it is taken; but the expression seems elliptical to ride post, is to ride as a post, or to ride in the manner of a post, *courir en poste*; whence *Shakespeare*, to ride in post.

I brought my master news of Juliet's death,

And then in post he came from Mantua

To this same monument. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*

Sent from Media post to Egypt. *Milton.*

He who rides post through an unknown country, cannot distinguish the situation of places. *Dryden.*

3. [*Poste*, Fr. from *positus*, Lat.] Situation; seat.

The waters rise every where upon the surface of the earth; which new post, when they had once seized on, they would never quit. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

4. Military station.

See before the gate what stalking ghost

Commands the guard, what sentries keep the post. *Dryd.*

As I watch'd the gates,

Lodg'd on my post, a herald is arriv'd

From Cæsar's camp. *Addison's Cato.*

Whatever spirit careles of his charge

His post neglects, or leaves the fair at large,

Shall feel sharp vengeance. *Pope.*

Each of the Grecian captains he represents conquering a single Trojan, while Diomed encounters two at once; and when they are engaged, each in his distinct post, he only is drawn fighting in every quarter. *Pope.*

5. Place; employment; office.

Every man has his post assigned to him, and in that station he is well, if he can but think himself so. *L'Estrange.*

False men are not to be taken into confidence, nor fearful men into a post that requires resolution. *L'Estrange.*

Without letters a man can never be qualified for any considerable post in the camp; for courage and corporal force, unless joined with conduct, the usual effects of contemplation, is no more fit to command than a tempest. *Collier.*

While you, my lord, the rural shades admire,

And from Britannia's publick posts retire,

Me into foreign realms my fate conveys. *Addison.*

Certain laws, by suff'ers thought unjust,

Deny'd all posts of profit or of trust. *Pope.*

Many thousands there are, who determine the justice or madness of national administrations, whom neither God nor men ever qualified for such a post of judgment. *Watts.*

6. [*Postis*, Lat.] A piece of timber set erect.

The blood they shall strike on the two side posts and upper post of the house. *Ex. xii. 7.*

Fir-trees, cyresses and cedars being, by a kind of natural rigour, inflexible downwards, are thereby fittest for posts or pillars. *Watson's Architecture.*

Post is equivocal; it is a piece of timber, or a swift messenger.

To POST. *v. n.* [*poster*, Fr. from the noun.] To travel with speed.

I posted day and night to meet you. *Shaksp.*

Will you presently take horse with him,

And with all speed post with him towards the North? *Shak.*

Post speedily to my lord, your husband,

Shew him this letter. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Most wicked speed, to post

With such dexterity to incestuous sheets. *Shaksp.*

Then this, then that man's aid, they crave, implore;

Post here for help, seek there their followers. *Daniel.*

The Turkish messenger presently took horse, which was there in readiness for him, and posted towards Constantinople with as much speed as he could. *Kneller.*

Themistocles made Xerxes post apace out of Greece, by giving out that the Grecians had a purpose to break his bridge of ships athwart the Hellespont. *Bacon's Essays.*

Wer't thou of the golden-winged host,

Who having clad thyself in human weed,

To earth from thy prefixed seat didst post. *Milton.*

Thousands at his bidding speed,

And post o'er land and ocean without rest. *Milton.*

With songs and dance we celebrate the day;

At other times we reign by night alone, *Dryden.*

And posting through the skies pursue the moon.

No wonder that pastoralists are fallen into disesteem; I see the reader already uneasy at this part of Virgil, counting the pages, and posting to the Æneis. *Walsh.*

This only object of my real care,

In some few posting fatal hours is hurt'd

From wealth, from pow'r, from love and from the world. *Prior.*

To POST. *v. a.*

1. To fix opprobriously on posts.

Many gentlemen, for their integrity in their votes, were, by posting their names, exposed to the popular calumny and fury. *King Charles.*

On pain of being posted to your sorrow,

Fail not, at four, to meet me. *Graville.*

2. To place;

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2. [*Poser*, Fr.] To place; to station; to fix.

The conscious priest, who was suborn'd before,

Stood ready posted at the postern door. *Dryden.*

He that proceeds upon other principles in his enquiry into any sciences, puts himself on that side, and posts himself in a party, which he will not quit till he be beaten out. *Locke.*

When a man is posted in the station of a minister, he is sure, beside the natural fatigue of it, to incur the envy of some, and the displeasure of others. *Addison's Freeholder.*

3. To register methodically; to transcribe from one book into another. A term common among merchants.

You have not posted your books these ten years; how should a man of business keep his affairs even at this rate? *Arbutnot.*

4. To delay. Obsolete.

I have not stopp mine ears to their demands,

Nor posted off their suits with flow delays;

Then why should they love Edward more than me. *Shaksp.*

POSTAGE. *n. f.* [from *post*.] Money paid for conveyance of a letter.

Fifty pounds for the postage of a letter! to send by the church, is the dearest road in Christendom. *Dryden.*

POSTBOY. *n. f.* [*post* and *boy*.] Courier; boy that rides post.

This genus came thither in the shape of a postboy, and cried out, that Mons was relieved. *Tatler.*

To POSTDATE. *v. a.* [*post*, after, Lat. and *date*.] To date later than the real time.

POSTDILUVIAN. *adj.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] Posterior to the flood.

Take a view of the postdiluvian state of this our globe, how it hath flood for this last four thousand years. *Woodw.*

POSTDILUVIAN. *n. f.* [*post* and *diluvium*, Lat.] One that lived since the flood.

The antediluvians lived a thousand years; and as for the age of the postdiluvians for some centuries, the annals of Phœnicia, Egypt and China agree with the tenor of the sacred story. *Grew's Cosmol. b. iv.*

POSTER. *n. f.* [from *post*.] A courier; one that travels hastily.

Weird fitters hand in hand,

Posters of the sea and land, *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

Thus do go about.

POSTERIOR. *adj.* [*posterior*, Lat. *posterior*, Fr.]

1. Happening after; placed after; following.

Where the anterior body giveth way, as fast as the posterior cometh on, it maketh no noise, but the motion never so great. *Bacon.*

No care was taken to have this matter remedied by the explanatory articles, posterior to the report. *Addison.*

Heliod was posterior to Homer. *Brown.*

This orderly disposition of things includes the ideas of prior, posterior and simultaneous. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Backward.

And now had fame's posterior trumpet blown,

And all the nations summon'd. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

POSTERIOR. *n. f.* [*posterior*, Lat.] The hinder parts.

To raise one hundred and ten thousand pounds, is as vain as that of Rabelais, to squeeze out wind from the posteriors of a dead ass. *Swift.*

POSTERIORITY. *n. f.* [*posteriorité*, Fr. from *posterior*.] The state of being after; opposite to priority.

Although the condition of sex and posteriority of creation might extenuate the error of a woman, yet it was unexcusable in the man. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

There must be a posteriority in time of every compounded body, to these more simple bodies out of which it is constituted. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

POSTERITY. *n. f.* [*posterité*, Fr. *posteritas*, Lat.] Succeeding generations; descendants; opposed to ancestors.

It was said,

It should not stand in thy posterity;

But that myself should be the father

Of many kings. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

Since arms avail not now that Henry's dead!

Posterity await for wretched years. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*

Posterity inform'd by thee might know. *Milton.*

Their names shall be transmitted to posterity, and spoken of through all future ages. *Smalbridge's Sermons.*

To th' unhappy, that unjustly bleed,

Heav'n gives posterity t' avenge the deed. *Pope.*

POSTERN. *n. f.* [*poterne*, Fr. *poterne*, Dutch; *janua postica*, Lat.] A small gate; a little door.

Ere dawning light

Discover'd had the world to heaven wide,

He by a privy postern took his flight,

That of no envious eyes he mote be spy'd. *Fa. Queen.*

Go on, good Eglamour,

Out at the postern by the abbey wall. *Shaksp.*

By broken byways did I inward pass,

And in that window made a postern wide. *Fairfax.*

These illud into the bale court through a privy postern,

and sharply visited the assassins with halberds. *Howard.*

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Great Britain hath had by his majesty a strong addition; the postern, by which we were so often entered and surprised, is now made up. *Raleigh's Essays.*

The conscious priest, who was suborn'd before,

Stood ready posted at the postern door. *Dryden.*

If the nerves, which are the conduits to convey them from without to the audience in the brain, be so disordered, as not to perform their functions, they have no postern to be admitted by, no other ways to bring themselves into view. *Locke.*

A private postern opens to my gardens

Through which the beauteous captive might remove. *Rowe.*

POSTEXISTENCE. *n. f.* [*post* and *existence*.] Future existence.

As Simonides has expoted the vicious part of women from the doctrine of pre-existence, some of the ancient philosophers have satyriized the vicious part of the human species from a notion of the foul's postexistence. *Addison's Spect.</*